



STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

February 19-20, 2025
Boise State University
Simplot Ballroom
1700 University Drive
Boise, ID 83725

A regular meeting of the Idaho State Board of Education was held at Boise State University on February 19 and 20, 2025. Board President, Dr. Linda Clark, called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. (MT).

Present

Dr. Linda Clark, President
William G. Gilbert, Jr., Vice President
Superintendent Debbie Critchfield, Secretary
David Turnbull

Kurt Liebich
Shawn Keough
Cindy Siddoway

Absent

Cally Roach

BOARDWORK

1. Agenda Review and Approval – Action Item

BOARD ACTION

M/S (Gilbert / Keough) I move to approve the agenda as posted. *Motion carried by voice vote.*

2. Minutes Review and Approval – Action Item

BOARD ACTION

M/S (Gilbert / Siddoway) I move to approve the minutes for the December 18, 2024, Regular Board Meeting. *Motion carried by voice vote.*

3. Rolling Calendar – Action Item

BOARD ACTION

M/S (Gilbert / Keough) I move to set February 18-19, 2026, as the dates for the February 2026 Regular Board Meeting at Boise State University. *Motion carried by voice vote.*

CONSENT

BAHR

1. Reappointment of Non-Board Members to the Audit, Risk and Compliance Committee
2. Idaho State University – Temporary Access Easement – Union Pacific Railroad
3. Idaho State University – Multi-year contract for Head Women’s Volleyball Coach
4. University of Idaho – Employment Contract, Head Football Coach

IDE

5. Emergency Provisional Certificates
6. Appointments to the Professional Standards Commission

IRSA

7. Boise State University – Bachelor of Arts in Social Work Online Program Fee – Action Item
8. Boise State University – Undergraduate Certificate in Professional Development in Vulnerable Populations Self-Support Fee – Action Item

PPGA

9. Idaho Indian Education Committee Appointments
10. College of Idaho – Request to Approve New Principal Certification Endorsement Program

Superintendent Critchfield requested online programs and fees be addressed in their respective committee’s agenda in the future and a work session be held to discuss them.

M/S (Gilbert / Keough) I move to approve the consent agenda. *Motion carried by voice vote.*

OPEN FORUM**BOARD OF TRUSTEES – BOISE STATE UNIVERSITY**

1. Boise State University Annual Report – Information Item

Dr. Marlene Tromp, President, Boise State University (BSU), reviewed the successes of Boise State University (BSU) during her tenure. The university has experienced a 39% increase in the 4-year graduation rate and is serving 52% more Idaho students. Beside student and athletic successes, BSU is partnering with the business community in many areas to increase academic programs and research and scholarship funding.

2. Boise State University students address the Board – Isaac Celedon, Kate Perkes, Dawson Henry, Hattie Wokersien, Victoria Zunich, Araceli Gomez Chavez

The Board discussed with the students why they chose to attend BSU, ways to improve preparing students for college, and obtaining concurrent credits in high school. The students cited affordability and campus life/atmosphere as reasons why they chose to attend BSU.

3. Boise State University Employees address the Board – Jen Schneider, Interim Dean of the College of Innovation and Design, Ira Burton, Director of the School of Computing, Leslie Kendrick, Associate Professor, Chair, Imaging Sciences Program Director, and Charlie Hunt, PhD, School of Public Service

Boise State employees answered the Board's questions regarding each of their respective departments and programs. The employees shared how faculty and administration work collaboratively and how they are continuing to work with students to ensure a positive educational experience

*President Clark placed the meeting in recess at 2:24 p.m.
President Clark reconvened the meeting at 2:37 p.m.*

President Clark announced Shawn Keough is conducting the business for the Instruction, Research and Student Affairs (IRSA) Committee Chair, Cally Roach, who had a family emergency.

INSTRUCTION, RESEARCH AND STUDENT AFFAIRS

1. Board Policy III.O. General Education English Writing and Mathematics Course Placement – First Reading – Action Item – Dr. Heidi Estrem

Dr. Heidi Estrem, Associate Academic Officer, Office of The State Board of Education (OSBE), presented Board Policy III.O to the Board for approval. Dr. Estrem stated the new policy is the result of years of work and on-going efforts to improve mathematics across the state. The policy will provide clearer definitions of key terms, define a set of statewide general education courses in writing and mathematics, integrate the Eleventh Grade Idaho Standards Achievement Test (ISAT) for college admission, and improve transparency and institutional reporting focused on identifying the prerequisite mathematics courses.

BOARD ACTION

M/S (Keough / Critchfield) I move to approve the first reading of proposed amendments to Board Policy III.O., General Education English Writing and Mathematics Course Placement, as submitted in Attachment 1. *Motion carried by voice vote.*

1. Repeal of Board Policy III.S. Remedial Education – First Reading – Dr. Heidi Estrem

Dr. Estrem stated this repeal is necessary to reduce confusion because the policy overlaps with Policy III.O.

BOARD ACTION

M/S (Keough / Critchfield) I move to approve the first reading of the repeal of Board Policy III.S., Remedial Education, as submitted in Attachment 1. *Motion carried by voice vote.*

2. Semi-Annual Report of Approved Program Requests – Information Item – Patty Sanchez

Dr. TJ Bliss, Chief Academic Officer, OSBE, stated that consistent with Board policy, the office reviews all academic and career technical program requests that were approved by the Executive Director.

Patty Sanchez, Academic Affairs Program Manager, OSBE, reviewed the report with the Board. Adrian San Miguel, Chief Program Officer, Idaho Division of Career Technical Education (IDCTE), clarified the Career-Technical Education (CTE) certificate's standards. Mr. San Miguel stated the certificates are aligned with regional needs but also meet national standards. Dr. Torrey Lawrence, Provost and Executive Vice President, University of Idaho (UI), relayed to the Board that academic certificates are not necessarily tied to national standards but have been developed with partners in industry.

Dr. Bliss reviewed with the Board the planned program evaluation process with these programs and stated a more robust assessment is forthcoming.

3. Boise State University – Bachelor of Science in Artificial Intelligence Science – Action Item – Patty Sanchez and Dr. Zeynep Hansen

Patty Sanchez presented an overview of the proposal process with the institutions. Ms. Sanchez also provided additional timeline details regarding Boise State University's (BSU) proposal to offer a Bachelor of Science degree in Artificial Intelligence Science (AI).

Dr. Zeynep Hansen, Vice Provost for Academic Planning and Institutional Effectiveness, BSU, presented BSU's proposal to offer a Bachelor of Science in AI. This program aims to address the increasing industry demand for AI-ready professionals who can understand and utilize complex AI models effectively. It will offer a balanced curriculum, combining theoretical foundations with practical applications, including experience with physical systems like robots, and will emphasize ethical considerations in AI development and deployment. The projected enrollment is high and that results in exceeding the approval threshold and need to ask Board approval.

Dr. John Buckwalter, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, BSU, described how they are focused on imbedding AI across campus. Dr. Jerry Fails, Chair, Computer Science Department, BSU, purported on how AI is a science, and this degree will be focused on the science and tools that will be used broadly. Dr. Fails also described how the department is actively engaged with industry leaders, local communities and K12 teachers.

BOARD ACTION

M/S (Keough / Turnbull) I move to approve the request by Boise State University to create a Bachelor of Science in Artificial Intelligence Science as presented by the full proposal presented in Attachment 1. *Motion carried by voice vote.*

4. Idaho State University – Doctor of Psychology in Clinical Psychology – Action Item – Patty Sanchez and Adam Bradford

Shawn Keough stated the next two proposals are related and deferred to Dr. Bliss to provide more details. Dr. Bliss shared Idaho State University (ISU) and UI are each proposing to offer Doctoral programs in Clinical Psychology to meet the growing demand in Idaho. ISU and UI have developed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that defines their collaboration.

Patty Sanchez presented ISU's proposal for a Doctor of Psychology in Clinical Psychology degree. Ms. Sanchez provided the timeline of development and review of the proposal.

Dr. Adam Bradford, Provost and Vice President Academic Affairs, ISU, provided more details regarding their program and proposal. Dr. Bradford also reviewed various ways mental health disorders are affecting Idaho and reported that studies show the state needs more mental health providers.

Dr. Joshua Swift, Chair, Department of Psychology, ISU, shared what ISU hopes to accomplish and the various ways they plan to meet community's needs with the new degree program. Dr. Rex Force, Vice President, Health Services, ISU, stated the building out of this program compliments several existing programs at ISU such as counseling services and social work.

President Clark and Superintendent Critchfield expressed a desire for the Board to have future discussions around what agreements and partnerships between institutions should look like and what should be included in the MOUs. Addressing questions from the Board, Dr. Bradford provided additional details regarding the MOUs between UI and BSU. Because of high demand from across the state, Superintendent Critchfield expressed her desire for ISU to offer additional speech pathology programs. Dr. Force stated ISU is willing to have conversations with stakeholders to better address the shortage of speech pathology professionals from several different approaches.

BOARD ACTION

M/S (Keough / Siddoway) I move to approve the request by Idaho State University to establish a new Doctor of Psychology in Clinical Psychology program. *Motion carried by voice vote.*

BOARD ACTION

M/S (Siddoway / Keough) I move to approve the request by Idaho State University to add a professional program fee of \$10,000 per year to the Doctor of Psychology in Clinical Psychology program, in conformance with the program budget submitted to the Board in Attachment 1. *Motion carried by voice vote.*

5. University of Idaho – Doctor of Psychology in Clinical Psychology – Action Item – Patty Sanchez and Torrey Lawrence

Patty Sanchez provided an overview of the proposed program and timeline of the approval process.

Torrey Lawrence, Provost and Executive Vice President, UI, presented UI's proposal to offer a Doctor of Psychology program in North Idaho. Mr. Lawrence stated UI fully supports ISU's program and the programs are complimentary and will work well together to address the growing needs in Idaho.

Thomas Farrer, Assistant Professor, Associate Program Director, UI, reviewed the need of the proposed program, the demand in the job market, the support UI has received from the community, state and students, and the clinical placement process.

M/S (Keough / Gilbert) I move to approve the request by the University of Idaho to add a Doctor of Psychology program as presented in conformance with the program budget submitted to the Board in Attachment 1. *Motion carried by voice vote.*

BUSINESS AFFAIRS AND HUMAN RESOURCES

1. Idaho State University – Planning and Design Budget Authorization, Life Science Building – Action Item – Dr. Robert Wagner and Brian Sagendorf

President Wagner, ISU, presented ISU's request to proceed with professional planning and design services of ISU's Life Science Building. The proposal is for design services only. President Wagner reviewed the reasons why the current facility cannot meet the needs of the life science programs. Brian Sagendorf, Vice President, Operations, ISU, provided details regarding the costs of the proposed new facility and why the costs of such a building are high. President Wagner stated that ISU's goal is to have the building completed by 2029, however, several milestones will need to be accomplished, such as demolition and groundbreaking by the Fall of 2026.

To address some concerns of the Board, President Wagner reviewed aspects of ISU's Master Plan, such as, the campuses at Meridian and Idaho Falls and student housing.

Jennifer Steele, Vice President, Finance and University Planning, ISU, reviewed bond scenarios and the university's credit rating. Ms. Steele stated the debt service capacity is significant, and the A1 rating was reaffirmed by Moody's.

Responding to questions from the Board, President Wagner and Mr. Sagendorf shared plans to acquire funds through the appropriation process and provided more details regarding student housing on the Pocatello and Meridian campuses.

BOARD ACTION

M/S (Gilbert /Turnbull) I move to approve the request by Idaho State University to proceed with planning and design services for a new Life Sciences building for a cost not to exceed \$10,000,000. Motion carried by voice vote.

President Clark placed the meeting at recess at 4:39 p.m.

Thursday, February 20, 2025 – 9:30 a.m. (Mountain Time)

President Clark called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – (Closed to the Public)

1. Convene into Executive Session pursuant to Idaho Code § 74-206(1)(f) “to communicate with legal counsel for the public agency to discuss the legal ramifications of and legal options for pending litigation, or controversies not yet being litigated but imminently likely to be litigated.” – Action Item (No action taken in Executive Session)

BOARD ACTION

M/S (Gilbert / Siddoway) I move that the Board, pursuant to Idaho Code § 74-206(1)(f), convene into Executive Session “to communicate with legal counsel for the public agency to discuss the legal ramifications of, and legal options for, pending litigation or controversies not yet being litigated but imminently likely to be litigated.” Motion carried by roll call vote of 6 AYE, 0 NAY.

President Dr. Linda Clark stated, the Board concluded its discussion and took no action on the matter discussed.”

President Clark placed the meeting at ease at 10:14 a.m.

President Clark reconvened the meeting at 10:24 a.m.

IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

1. Superintendent's Update – Discussion Item – Superintendent Critchfield

To mirror the Board's direction to local school districts, Superintendent Critchfield began her update by speaking about literacy and reporting state-wide proficiency rates.

Superintendent Critchfield informed the Board what SMART coaching is, how it is being used, and how it is making a difference in students' learning experiences. Because the feedback has been positive, legislation will be introduced to provide SMART coaching in schools. Proposals are being developed to provide SMART training in teacher preparation programs at the universities. The department is working with districts to address needs in professional development.

The Board discussed how data is used in performance evaluations, the funding around literacy and how that money is distributed. Superintendent Critchfield reviewed pending legislation, which legislation the department is working on, and which bills the department is watching.

PLANNING, POLICY, AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

1. Board Policy I.M. – Annual Planning and Reporting – Second Reading – Action Item – Matthew Rieber – 10 min

Kurt Liebich reported the committee reviewed the annual reports and encouraged members to review the report from Idaho Educational Services for the Deaf and the Blind. Mr. Liebich reviewed why the proposed changes to Board Policy 1.M. are important. Matthew Reiber, External Affairs and Strategy Officer, reported there are no substantial changes from the previous reading of the policy.

BOARD ACTION

M/S (Liebich / Siddoway) I move to approve the second reading of the proposed amendment to Board Policy I.M. as presented in Attachment 2. *Motion carried by voice vote.*

WORK SESSION

1. Division of Career Technical Education Annual Report – Information Only – Tracie Bent, Adrian San Miguel, Heather Luchte, Korey Mereness, and Tia Davis

Executive Director Whitworth recognized the excellent work the team at the Idaho Division of Career Technical Education (IDCTE) is accomplishing. There has been significant growth in programs and students' participation in the CTE programs. The state is experiencing a growing trend of students participating in CTE programs moving on to higher education.

The Board discussed several items with the leadership team from CTE, including integration and collaboration with Workforce Development Council, Idaho Department of Education, higher education, and industry.

Korey Mereness, Chief Educator Officer, CTE, shared ways the department is attracting teachers with direct industry experience and providing the necessary professional development to support those teachers.

The Board discussed the effectiveness of introducing CTE programs in middle school and if those should be expanded. If the Board reviewed what steps would need to be taken if they chose to expand CTE programs to middle school students.

Heather Luchte, Chief Performance and Accountability Officer, CTE, presented the micro-credential policy and how that program benefits students. The Board requested a future annual report regarding how many students are using this program and how they are progressing.

INFORMATIONAL

IRSA

1. Established Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (EPSCoR) Annual Report – Information Only
2. Higher Education Research Council (HERC) Annual Report – Information Only

PPGA

3. Boise State University Annual Progress Report
4. Idaho Division of Career Technical Education (IDCTE) Annual Report
5. Idaho Educational School for the Deaf and Blind (IESDB) Annual Report

President Clark stated the importance of medical education in Idaho, the medical pipeline, and working with the medical community. The WWAMI (Washington, Wyoming, Alaska, Montana and Idaho) medical program has not always met the needs of Idaho. The Board will organize an Undergraduate Medical Education committee to address medical education in Idaho.

M/S (Gilbert / Turnbull) I move to adjourn the meeting at 11:58 a.m. (MT). *Motion carried by voice vote.*